

# **RIGHTS OF WAY ENDANGERED SPECIES SURVEY FOR THE SOUTHWEST REGION OF GEORGIA**

The Southwest Region of Georgia consists of the following 14 counties: Quitman, Randolph, Terrell, Lee, Clay, Calhoun, Dougherty, Worth, Early, Baker, Mitchell, Miller, Seminole and Decatur.

Based on the Georgia Natural Heritage Inventory records, the following plants, plant communities and animal habitats were searched for on Georgia Power Company rights of way.

## **Plants:**

Pineland Plaintain – *Plantago sparsiflora*  
Variable-leaf Plaintain – *Cacalia diversifolia*  
Groove-stem Indian Plaintain – *Amoglossum sulcatum*  
Hooded Pitcherplant – *Sarracenia minor*  
Yellow Flytrap – *Sarracenia flava*  
Canby Dropwort – *Oxypolis canbyi*  
Arkansas Oak – *Quercus arkansana*  
Relict Trillium – *Trillium reliquum*  
Big Pod Wild Indigo – *Baptisia megacarpa*  
Curtiss Loosestrife – *Lythrum curtissii*  
Swamp Buckthorn – *Bumelia thornei*  
Elliot Croton – *Croton elliotii*  
Chapman Gay Feathers – *Liatris chapmanii*

## **Animals:**

Gopher Tortoise – *gopherus polyphemus*  
Bachman's Sparrow – *Aimophila aestivalis*

**There are 13 maintenance concerns in 6 counties: Decatur (3) gopher tortoise, Miller (1) gopher tortoise, Mitchell (1) gopher tortoise, Baker (2) gopher tortoise, Early (3) gopher tortoise, Worth (1) gopher tortoise, (1) yellow flytrap (1) hooded pitcherplant.**

**Discussion and Recommendations:** The Southwest Region of Georgia is characterized by large areas of cultivated farmlands and woodlands. Historically the area is known for large plantations and other private lands that are managed for wildlife. The Flint and Chattahoochee River floodplains and tributaries contribute to the area's diversity. The absence of major populations centers (Albany is the only large town in the region) give the appearance of being more "open" than other parts of Georgia. The 13 locations with

concerns were discovered or re-discovered by Tetra-Tech while conducting a rights of way survey of the power lines from Plant Farley in Alabama. This includes records of 11 gopher tortoise and 2 pitcherplant locations. Indigosnakes occur in Southwest Georgia, so the concern for gopher tortoise burrows is important as critical habitat for a federal listed species.

Recommendations are presented in the Maintenance Recommendation for Gopher Tortoise, Pitcherplant Sections of the report.

## **SURVEY SUMMMARY FOR THE SOUTHWEST REGION**

All the counties within the Southwest Region are summarized below. The GPC number is listed along with the common name of the plant/animal. The numbered line items refer to locations within the county; only those signified by bold print were considered close enough to the rights of way to field survey. Line items in regular print refer to animal species not considered in the survey or locations too far from the line to be of concern, usually 500-700 feet.

### **QUITMAN COUNTY (No Locations Required Field Survey)**

### **RANDOLPH COUNTY (No Locations Required Field Survey)**

### **TERRELL COUNTY (No Map, No Locations Required Field Survey)**

### **LEE COUNTY (4 Locations on an OPC Line, No GPC Maintenance concerns)**

**# 831 – Pineland plaintain. 1921 record. The plant location record indicated it occurs on opposite side of road from ROW. No plants were found. (Field Note #136, 17 May 2002).**

**# 302 – Hooded Pitcher Plant. The plant location record indicated that it occurs on the opposite side of the highway from the ROW. The ROW near the locations is a definite wetland with cypress ponds, but no pitcher plants were found. (Field Note #135, 17 May, 2002)**

**#581 – Canby Dropwort. The record is described as being on the ROW. No plants were found at the given location, which is in a wetland. (Field Note #134, 17 May 2002).**

**#21 – Canby Dropwort. No plants were found. The ROW transects a pine wood wetland with standing water up to 12 inches deep at the time of the survey. Beaver**

activity is also apparent. (Field Note #133, 17 May 2002). NOTE: Wetlands have been flagged/delineated in the past.

These four locations were checked but according to John Niepper (GPC Regional Transmission Forester) Georgia Power does not maintain these transmission lines (No maintenance concerns).

**CLAY COUNTY** (2 Locations were surveyed, 1 should be surveyed in March)

#601 – Arkansas Oak. 265 Feet from line, check for habitat. The entire area has been cleared for agriculture right up to the edge of the road. No Maintenance Concerns. (GPC Field Note #148)

#352 – Relict Trillium. The Relict Trillium location is a ravine below the ROW. Trilliums were not in flower during the survey, but the ground cover of the ROW is probably too thick for the plant to become established. Since the record is so close (100 Feet); the site should be surveyed during the flowering season. No field sheet was completed.

#1185 - Big Pod Wild Indigo. The plant location was found in a hardwood deep ravine north of Fort Gaines water plant. No plants were found. Access was not available to the ROW location due to Walter F George Dam security and inaccessibility due to the deep ravines. The ROW is about 600 feet from the location and is an altogether different habitat. No maintenance concerns (GPC Field Note #147).

#1109 – Plumleaf Azalea.

#1049 – Trepocarpus. 800 feet from line

**CALHOUN COUNTY** (No Locations Required Field Survey)

**DOUGHERTY COUNTY** (No Locations Required Field Survey)

#923 – Pickering Morning-glory. Albany city limits/fossil dunes, maybe off line. 400 feet from line.

#941 – Chaffseed. Nilo Plantation

**WORTH COUNTY COUNTY** (Tetra-Tech Report Contained 3 New Locations, Some Concerns)

**New – Gopher Tortoise. 500Kv South of Sylvester near highway 33, Structures # 329-330 and 326-327. 17 burrows in two active clusters. Some Concerns. (Tetra-tech Report, Whitten/GPC Field Note #156)**

**New – Hooded Pitcher Plant. 500Kv South of Sylvester on either side of Highway 33, two populations. Minor Concern. (Tetra-Tech Report, Gaddy/GPC Field Note #157).**

**New – Yellow Pitcher Plant. 500Kv South of Sylvester on west side of Highway 33. Some Concern (Tetra-Tech Report, Gaddy/GPC Field Note #158) .**

**#389 – Yellow flytrap. Last observed in 1948, 1,000 feet from line**

**EARLY COUNTY (2 Locations Were Field Surveyed, Tetra-Tech Report Contains 4 New Locations/Some Concerns).**

**#533 – Relict Trillium. Location is on 46Kv line, tornado has damaged habitat. Relict Trillium is unlikely to be found on the ROW due to the thick vegetation on the ROW and because much of the ROW is wetland and unsuitable for Relict Trillium. No maintenance concerns. (GPC Field Note #149).**

**#529 – Curtiss Loosestrife. No plants were found. There is suitable habitat off the right of way. No maintenance concerns. (GPC Field Note #150).**

**New – Gopher Tortoise. 500/230Kv Lines, 3 colonies of 36 active dens. Some Concern as this appears to be a major gopher tortoise colony. (Tetra-Tech, Whitten/GPC Field Note #151)**

**New – Gopher Tortoise. 500Kv line, Northwest of Lucile. 3 active burrows. Minor Concerns. (Tetra-Tech, Whitten/GPC Field Note #152)**

**New – Gopher Tortoise. 230Kv Line North of Cedar Springs, 6 active burrows Some Concerns. (Tetra-Tech, Whitten/GPC Field Note #153)**

**New – Thorne's Buckthorn. East of State Highway 45. Plants were not found on the ROW, but were found growing just off the ROW margin No maintenance concerns. (Tetra-tech, Gaddy/GPC Field Note #154)**

**BAKER COUNTY (3 Locations were Field Surveyed, Tetra-Tech Report contains 2 New locations. Some maintenance Concerns)**

**#216 – Elliot Croton. No plants were found. A grass pasture occurs where “Sea Pond” is shown on the map. No maintenance concerns (Field Note #130, 16 May 2002)**

**NOTE: #216 AND #509 WERE ERRONOUSLY GIVEN THE SAME FIELD NOTE NUMBER. THIS WILL BE CORRECTED AND ONE WILL BE GIVE FIELD NOTE #131.**

**#509 – Swamp Buckthorn. The location of the plant is north of the ROW. The ROW was checked from pole #364 to #366, no plants were found. No maintenance concern (Field Note #130, 16 May 2002)**

**#733 - Variable-Leaf Indian Plaintain. This section of ROW is the same as that checked for #50 Swamp Buckthorn. No plants were found. Plant location is 500 feet from line. No maintenance concern (Field Note # 131).**

**New – Gopher Tortoise. 500Kv line West of Newton on Highway 37, structures 188-191, 7 active burrows. Some Concerns. (Tetra-Tech Report, Whitten/GPC Field Note #160)**

**New – Gopher Tortoise. 500Kv line approx 3 miles North of Newton, 2 Active Burrows. ) Minor Concern (Tetra-Tech Report, Whitten/GPC Field Note #161.**

**#207 – Hall Bullrush - 500Kv line.**

**#248 – Harper Fimbry - on Ichaway Plantation, 813 feet from line.**

**MITCHELL COUNTY (Tetra-Tech Report Contained 1 new Location, Some Concern)**

**New – Gopher Tortoise – 500Kv Line, Structure 264-265 near Stagecoach Road. 9 active burrows. Some Concern. (Tetra-Tech Report, Whitten/GPC Field Note # 155)**

**#548 – Yellow flytrap. 600 feet from line**

**#44 – Hooded Pitcher Plant. 2000 feet from line.**

**MILLER COUNTY (Tetra-tech Report Contained 1 new Location, Some Maintenance Concern)**

**New –Gopher Tortoise –3 active burrows. Minor Concern (Tetra-Tech Report, Whitten/GPC Field Note #159)**

**#1158 – Cutleaf Agrimony - 1800 feet from line**

**SEMINOLE COUNTY (Tetra-tech Report Contained 1 new Location, Some Maintenance Concern)**

**New – Gopher Tortoise, 230Kv line 9 miles South of Colquitt on Highway 45, 3 active burrows, one contained gopher frogs. Some Concern. (Tetra-tech Report, Whitten/GPC Field Note #159)**

**DECATUR COUNTY (Tetra Tech Report contained 5 new Locations, Some Maintenance Concerns)**

**#681 – Big-pod Wild Indigo. Three clumps were found on the margins of the ROW. There is minimal maintenance concern because the plants occur on the edge and are not likely to be affected by maintenance. No plants were found on the ROW. No maintenance concern (Field note #127, 16 May 2002)**

**#138 – Grooved-stem Indian Plantain. No plants were found. No maintenance concern (Field note #128).**

**#1103 – Chapman Gay Feathers. This is a 50 year old record. No plants were found and the location may be questionable. No maintenance concerns (16 May 2002).**

**New - Gopher Tortoise. 230Kv south of Bainbridge on Highway 309. 16 active burrows. Some Maintenance concerns. (Tetra-tech Report, Whitten/GPC Field Note #162).**

**New – Bachman's Warbler. 230Kv line southwest of Bainbridge on Highway 253, structures 174-175. one bird heard singing. No maintenance concern. (Tetra-tech Report, Whitten/GPC Field Note # 163)**

**New – Gopher Tortoise. 230Kv, approx 9 miles west of Bainbridge, South of Highway 84/38. 4 active burrows. Structures 149-151. Some maintenance concerns. (Tetra-tech Report, Whitten/GPC Field Note #164)**

**New – Bachman's Sparrow. Same location as Field Note #154, Structure #147. 2 birds heard sing No maintenance concern. (Tetra-tech Report/Whitten/GPC Field Note #165)**

**New – Gopher Tortoise. 230Kv 2 miles south of Bainbridge near state road 97, structures 187-188. 2 active burrows. Some maintenance concerns. (Tetra-tech Report, Whitten/GPC Field Note #166)**

**#518 – Bay-head community - 1700 feet from line**

## LOCATIONS WITH MAINTENANCE CONCERNS IN THE SOUTHWEST REGION

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>FIELD NOTE #</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
Gopher tortoise	Worth	#156	Some concerns, 17 burrows
Hooded pitcherplant	Worth	#157	Minor concerns, 3 populations
Yellow flytrap	Worth	#158	Minor concern
Gopher tortoise	Early	#151	Some concern, 3 colonies, 36 burrow appears to be a major colony
Gopher tortoise	Early	#152	Minor concern, 3 active burrows
Gopher tortoise	Early	#153	Some concern, 6 active burrows
Gopher tortoise	Baker	#160	Some concern, 7 active burrows
Gopher tortoise	Baker	#161	Minor concern, 3 active burrows
Gopher tortoise	Mitchell	#155	Some concern, 9 active burrows
Gopher tortoise	Miller	#159	Minor concern, 3 active burrows
Gopher tortoise	Decatur	#162	Some concern, 16 active burrows
Gopher tortoise	Decatur	#164	Some concern, 4 active burrows
Gopher tortoise	Decatur	#166	Minor concern, 2 active burrows